

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOMENICI: FOUR NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE \$1.7 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING

21st Century Community Learning Centers Program to Benefit State Youth

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today reported that four New Mexico schools will receive more than \$1.7 million in federal funding to establish high quality, community-based programs that expand learning opportunities for children.

Dulce Independent School, **Rio Rancho** Public Schools, **Santa Fe** Public Schools and **West Las Vegas** Schools will all receive a portion of the funding, provided through the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

"These funds will assist school districts in supporting community-based learning programs and projects that serve the educational and recreational needs of the community. School-based learning centers can provide safe, drug-free, and cost-effective afterschool, weekend or summer havens for youth and their families," Domenici said.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was established by Congress to award grants to rural and inner-city public schools to enable them to plan, implement, or expand community learning centers that serve children and families. The program urges schools to collaborate with other public and nonprofit agencies and organizations, local businesses, and other educational and human services entities, to meet the needs of, and expand the opportunities available to the residents of the communities served by such schools.

The New Mexico funding is awarded as follows:

- c **Dulce Independent School** -- \$297,145 to support the *21st Century Community Learning Centers* program, which will serve over 300 students and all interested community members in this rural, predominately Native American and Hispanic community. An extended day program will be implemented to help students improve their test scores in core academic subjects; extended library hours to help improve study habits. Opportunities will be provided for art, recreation, nutrition, and adult learning services.

- c **Rio Rancho Public Schools** -- \$502,846 for the *CHILES* program, to address the needs of 10,800 students and their families through an array of after school academic and recreational programs. Focus will be on math and science, integrated technology, early literacy, parenting skills, library programs, sports, senior citizen activities, recreation, tutoring, and more.
- c **Santa Fe Public Schools** -- \$509,529 for the *Estudiantes, Amigos, y Familias* project, to serve 1,264 students and 3,790 community members in four elementary schools. One program will offer academic support for all students and after-school and summer programs for students with disabilities. A second program will focus on improving literacy skills. A third will offer programs in Spanish and English and a dual-language immersion component. A fourth will offer evening ESL for families and a Saturday Learning Academy for returning students.
- c **West Las Vegas Schools** -- \$426,784 for the *West Las Vegas Schools 21st Century Community Learning Centers* program, to serve 2,109 students and over 150 community members in one high school and two elementary schools after school, on Saturdays, and during the summer. Services will focus on literacy education; integrated health, social service, recreational and cultural education programs; nutrition and health programs, and parent education. The program will emphasize community service, health and wellness, and career preparation.